

ARARAT.

A SEARCHLIGHT ON ARMENIA.

08 NOV 2012

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FOREWORD.

If an excuse were needed for the appearance, and the continuance in a periodical form, of this publication, it will be found in the spirit of anxiety, we might almost say of despair, which now animates the breasts of Armenians scattered throughout the world for the future of their country and countrymen.

A nation which has been ground down for centuries under the crushing heel of conquest, and whose geographical position is one of comparative isolation, can only appeal to the public opinion of the great Western nations for that measure of justice and liberty which all civilised humanity claims as its birthright. When misrule is stretched to the point of practical dispossession and extermination, not a moment can be lost in bringing facts before the clear vision of that public opinion, whose sense of humanity, we feel sure, will ultimately right the wrongs of centuries.

The Press of this country was not slow in showing its indignation against the atrocities committed in the Congo and the Putumayo. Why is it so supine and apathetic in the matter of Armenia, where crimes equally bad and worse continue from day to day? True it is that no British capital is yet invested in the development of that hapless country, but we must decline to believe that sordid interests alone can vivify humanitarian instincts. We believe that the Foreign Offices of Europe are in possession of facts concerning Armenian misrule which would horrify public opinion were they made known; but the tortuous paths of diplomatic action, intertwined as they are by national jealousies, are not always understood by the man in the street. We believe, too, that the publication of horrible details of persecution in the Russian and Armenian newspapers of the Near East are not always accessible to the Press of this country, owing to their being written in languages little known here.

The object of this publication is to bring before the public opinion of this country such facts as are reported by responsible authorities in Turkish Armenia at the present moment, as well as to give all current information on topics of national interest; and it is hoped that the efforts to rouse public opinion will ultimately react on that European Concert which is charged with the peace of the world, and which has undertaken responsibilities in the past, the shirking of which would be a crime against God and man.

Vacillation and delay have continued while the victim is being slowly done to death. Immediate action is imperative, and it will be none too soon for the salvation of an ancient race, whose crimes consist in having upheld the ~~Christian faith~~ through all vicissitudes, and in having ardently longed for some share in the progress of the West.

Уч. А. Мещеряков
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15 - JUN 2009

Reports of the Meetings

OF THE

Armenian United Association of London,

AT THE ELYSEE GALLERIES, QUEEN'S ROAD,
BAYSWATER, W., JUNE 8TH, 1913.

ADDRESSES

ON

"Armenia and the Near East,"

BY

MR. G. P. GOOCH, M.A., DR. T. M. MAGUIRE, LL.D., MR. ARTHUR
G. SYMONDS, M.A., and others. The President in the chair.

On Sunday, June 8th, at the Elysée Galleries, a series of short addresses on "Armenia and the Near East," was inaugurated under the auspices of the English Committee of the London Armenian United Association. Amongst those who spoke were:—Mr. G. P. Gooch, the editor of the "Contemporary Review" and a former M.P.; Dr. Maguire, a well-known authority on strategy and military affairs and historian; Mr. Arthur Symonds, M.A., the secretary of the Balkan and British-Armenian Committee, and Professor Hagopian.

Many sympathetic letters were received. Professor Rendel Harris wrote: "The interest of your people is much on my heart, especially at the present time. Please give the Association a warm greeting from me." Mr. T. P. O'Connor, M.P., wrote: "I am doing my best for the cause." Mr. H. N. Brailsford wrote: "I am very anxious to see this crisis used for the good of Armenia." Letters were received also from Mr. Noel Buxton, M.P., Dr. J. Pollen, and others.

LIEUT.-COLONEL G. MARCAR GREGORY, V.D., the President, said :

In the short career of our reorganised Association, we have been accustomed at our gatherings to hear our own voices, but to-day we are promised a pleasing change, and it is my duty to introduce to you distinguished gentlemen—friends of Armenians, and sympathisers in the cause of Armenia—who will tell you, as unbiassed outsiders, what they think of us, of our country and of our cause—in fact, they will enable us to see ourselves as others see us.

It is one of the essential objects of the Association's existence, not only to unite among ourselves for friendly intercourse and for bringing into focus national sentiment against the worst persecution that any country ever suffered under, but to gain in every legitimate way the sympathy of the great British nation, lethargic in the mass at the outset, but without rival as advocates when once the justice of a cause has been proved to them. Those kind friends who have volunteered to address you to-day have been keen students of the Eastern Question, and are therefore only continuing here their self-imposed task of waking up that dormant British sense of justice. They have our deepest gratitude, and we doubt not that their words, here and elsewhere, will gradually leaven the mass of British thought.

To us Armenians, the Armenian Question is the very life-blood in our veins. It cannot be otherwise to those who have had their most cherished ideas of life, of property, of honour trampled under foot in the most fiendish manner ; to those who have been deluded time and again by treaty conditions and promises—human pawns, so to speak, on the diplomatic chess-board of western nations. In listening to the addresses to-day we are prepared to listen not only to what is for us, but also to what is against us—to accept advice which we know will be kindly meant—to trust to guidance in a path which should be as clear as noon-day, but which, we are told, is beset with much difficulty.

Our Association, ladies and gentlemen, is essentially of a pacific character, and our politics are neutral. By that I mean that we are in no sense revolutionary ; we do not desire the subversion of empires, or of constituted authority ; we do not desire autonomy, or the setting up of Armenia as an independent kingdom with a king of our own. What we do desire, and what we ask for of the powerful nations of Europe, is security of life, equality of man and man, whether he be Turk or Armenian, the very elements of justice for all alike—in fact, the simple birthrights of civilised humanity. If that is introducing politics into our Association, then I say emphatically that we are a political body, and to the extent I have indicated every one of us will do our utmost to gain what we desire, and I doubt not that the powerful voice of Europe, which should not brook the existence of a cesspool and a slaughter-house at its very doors, will be on our side.

We have heard of the many difficulties which are constantly paraded before the public for granting the necessary reforms to Armenia. One friendly correspondent of a newspaper has said that their introduction would mean that “the masters would become the servants, and the servants the masters”—an epigrammatic and happy compliment to the genius of the Armenian for getting on, if he is given the chance. But it might also be taken as a warning that we must not expect the Turk to allow us to take all the plums out of the pudding. We have never asked for all the plums, and I reckon that the Turk will be shrewd enough when the time for the distribution comes nigh, to have his proper share. What we do ask for I have already enumerated—justice in the law-courts, equality between man and man, freedom to our countrymen to keep their own, respect for life and honour, whether it be of Moslem or of Christian.

Another writer in the last “Quarterly Review,” after some careful reasoning, comes to the following conclusion :—

“Now it is not too much to say that these and a number of proposed remedies for other admitted grievances are sorely needed ; for existence side by side with the lawless Kurds, who prey ruthlessly upon the hard-working, sober, thrifty Armenians, is in truth intolerable. Moreover, many of the reforms now asked for were promised last century. Theoretically, therefore, the suit of the Armenian people is reasonable.”

In this writer's mind, however, where humanity is concerned, theory and practice are incompatible terms, and he proceeds at once to the inevitable “but”—“but the moment for pressing it (*i.e.*, the reforms) is inopportune”—and so on. We ask such an arm-chair critic, who probably has never had a moment's discomfort in his life : You say that life for the Armenians is intolerable ; pray tell us also, for Heaven's sake, when the opportune moment will arrive ? Our countrymen have struggled against heavy odds for centuries, their country has been torn from them, their women and children are being subjected to the grossest indignities, they have been more than decimated in number, and are at this moment struggling under the heels of a fanatical overlord, and at the point of death. Is the opportune moment not yet ?

We cannot believe that Europe of the twentieth century will perpetuate the evils it wrought in the nineteenth. We have every confidence in the British nation, and in that statesman, Sir Edward Grey, who has done yeoman service for the Balkan Allies and the Turks ; and we all look forward to that dawn of a prosperous era for our benighted land and people, when man will have come to his own, when the rich resources of the country will be permitted to be developed for the benefit of both Turk and of Armenian, and when the evil genius of the past will be remembered as a horrible nightmare of long ago, to be recounted in historical works as something which a sturdy people, nurtured in the cradle of the human race, was able to endure and to survive.

And now, ladies and gentlemen, I have taken up much of your time with thoughts that were uppermost in my mind. We will now introduce our friends to you, and ask them to tell you what they know and what they think of Armenia and the Near East; and on behalf of us all I may assure them that their sympathetic presence to-day cannot fail to instil hope in our minds as to the future that is in store for our country and our countrymen.

MR. G. P. GOOCH said :

One is often asked, how did you get interested on the Armenian question? In my case it was by watching day after day the face of Mr. Gladstone from the Strangers' Gallery, the expression of his face when championing the cause of suffering races was more convincing than the exhaustive pages of blue books.

The present was a moment of great danger for Armenia. The Turks had been beaten by Christian Powers in Europe, and it would not be surprising if they took revenge on Asiatic Christians. There was also the danger that the Turks, having lost their European possessions, would overrun Armenia and increase her burden and taxation. But the present situation was also full of opportunities. The Powers of Europe, having got the eternal question of the Macedonian Christians out of the way would now have more time to think about Armenia. Mistakes in the past were due to the jealousy of the Powers. The obstacles which prevented action on the part of Europe, or of England, in the nineties had been very largely removed now. Russia, which was the main obstacle in 1894-6, was now bound to England by an *entente*. Still more important was the removal of the German obstacle. Germany had already got a great number of financial, political and economic concessions, the greatest of which was the Bagdad Railway, so that Germany's appetite in Turkey was to some extent satisfied. It is encouraging that Russia, Germany, France, the parties most interested, were now in complete accord with the attitude adopted by Great Britain. This was a happy augury for the Armenian question to be taken up as soon as the peace question in the Balkans was settled. Did Armenia desire to live, as she had in the past, at the mercy of the Turks? What she did desire was that her interests and rights should be guaranteed by continuous European supervision. It was a very modest programme; it would strengthen Turkey, and would bring about the possibility of a happy, prosperous, and secure life for the long-suffering Armenian people. He concluded a most interesting speech, which detailed in most lucid terms the entire Armenian question from a political standpoint, by impressing on his hearers that much also depended on the attitude and the initiative of Armenians themselves, on which he himself had learnt to place implicit reliance,

MR. ARTHUR G. SYMONDS

urged the force of Parliamentary action, and said that several members of the British Armenian Committee had brought pressure to bear directly on the Foreign Office, which would bear practical fruit. They were not going to be satisfied with guarantees or paper promises. They were going to take active steps to compel Turkey to carry out reforms in Armenia. There was close accord between the Foreign Offices of France and Great Britain on this question of Armenia. Justice must prevail in the end. If Governments, diplomats, ambassadors, and politicians would not listen to them they would appeal to a higher court, to public opinion. We would be blood-guilty in the sight of God if we don't take action now.

DR. T. MILLER MAGUIRE

gave an amusing sketch of the first appearance of the Turk in Europe, which led him to point the moral to the opportunity of the Armenian, who should now say, "Here is where we come in!" It is with deeds and not merely words, said he, that they must conquer, and, united, they must take action and lead on to prosperity.

Dr. T. Miller Maguire could not very well understand why his name was associated with any part of the Turkish Empire, Moslem or Christian, though certainly all his life, he might say, he was deeply interested in those interesting realms, not only where were the spacious bounds of the Empires of Ninevah and Babylon, of Medes and Persians, and Parthians and Saracens, but where from Thrace to Magna Græcia, and from the Granicus to the Nile and the Indus, the godlike son of Philip, Alexander, left a "name at which the world grew pale."

Just after the Turks had marched back after their easy triumph over Greece in 1898, as he looked from the Bosphorus to Asia Minor and backwards on Europe, the very goddesses of History and Poetry and Art—all the muses and the greatest miracles of religion, and all the genius of Minerva, of wisdom and war, thronged his mind with overwhelming emotions.

As Napoleon said of Syria and Anatolia and Asia generally, there lay the germs of the race, there the origins of all grandeur.

There, said Dr. Maguire, were the monuments of old, surpassing all the machine-made and smoke-befouled creations of that degradation mis-named Civilization.

He himself was nearer akin to that race so bitterly and justly attacked by previous speakers, the blood curdling Kurds, as he was descended from these Celtic clansmen, who gave as much bother to the Anglo-Saxon on the borders of the United Kingdom as the

Kurdistan folk gave Armenia, or indeed gave the followers of Tamerlane, or of the adventurous Ertogrul, who founded the Turkish Empire in Asia Minor long before Othman's race turned Byzantium into Stamboul.

But the dwellers all through these ages by the sources of the Tigris and Euphrates—the Armenians—were a distinct nationality, and were not crushed by any strange race. The greatest Cæsars themselves admitted this fact, and it did no credit to British politicians, who controlled a greater Empire than did any Antiochus or Trajan or Constantine, that its paltry vote-catching charlatans of canting party politicians were not true to themselves or to those who trusted to British faith in recent crises.

He congratulated the ladies and gentlemen whom he saw before him, and whose well-set bodies and bright intellects, even when exiles here, illustrated what their ancestors must have been when their skill and valour were making history for centuries. He pointed out how, as being the meeting place of the main routes of Asia, Africa and Europe, one of the strategic decisive points of the past and of the future was Armenia; and assuredly History would repeat itself, and from the gloom of the 19th century the brightness of the Levant, which attracted the brilliancy of all the "supermen" of the past, would emerge once more.

Hence—having passed some more compliments on the race, the religion, and even the conquerors of Armenia—Dr. Maguire declared that he felt as if he were remaking History by taking part in the "Vicissitudes of things," as Bacon called the cycles of time, by looking at and speaking to such an audience.

He, an Irish soldier and lawyer, lecturing with an Armenian British volunteer in the chair, was a marvellous incident. As to the Turks, they were not so easily conquered as many supposed, and that their best soldiers in recent times came from Asia Minor and Mesopotamia could never be an insignificant fact, nor could the territories of Armenus the Argonaut. He declared that the St. George of Merry England, the saint of Victory and the red cross came from Cappadocia, and probably Saints Patricius and Andrew may also have learned much from Armenian theologians. But the Turks were hard to beat, and if they subdued Armenia it was no wonder. At any rate, when the lecturer was in Thrace he learned, as he pointed out in the *Globe*, that the lines of Chatalja might give as much trouble in their way as the lines of Wellington at Torres Vedras, on which the lines of Buyuk Tceckmedje were modelled. He thanked the audience and, without any slander of the Turks, he hoped that some Turkish or Christian Commander would tame the Kurds as effectively as the Highland clansmen were tamed by the Duke of Cumberland.

As to the outburst of canting sympathy a few years ago for the New or Young Turks, he never believed for a moment in its reality or sincerity; and he appealed to Armenians on the platform if the New fanaticism was not even worse than the old. He congratulated Ancient Armenia on its modern London representatives, many of whom bore a striking resemblance in their faces to the great Tigranes.

As for the ladies, they were at least as fit as any other London ladies or Grecian dames to educate in the truest manner a race of "Military men fit for Empire," and also for the worship of the Muses and of Love under the standard of St. George and St. Patrick.

PROFESSOR G. HAGOPIAN,

who had taken a prominent part in enlisting public sympathy for the Armenians by his letters published in the *Times*, gave a brief sketch of the history of the Armenian Question in England, and said: The cause of Armenia had been won by the insertion of Art. 61 in the Treaty of Berlin signed on the 13th July, 1878, and the conclusion of the Anglo-Turkish Convention signed on the 4th June of the same year, and which had been kept a profound secret. The Sublime Porte, however, wanted compulsion as an outward and visible sign of the united will of the Great Powers of Europe. When it thought this would not be forthcoming, owing to the jealousies and rivalries of the Powers who had undertaken to supervise the execution of the Reforms, it felt itself at liberty to decimate the Armenian people by massacres and to impoverish them by pillage. The Armenians could have but one sovereign scheme of reforms, only one desire and one ambition—FREEDOM and RESTORATION. Freedom from injustice, persecution, outrage and massacre, and the inauguration of a reign of law and order, security and justice in their historic land. After a further period of quite unnecessary and gratuitous suffering since 1878, and again since May, 1895, they hoped that the civilised world would now step in and by the might of its united all-prevailing weight, put an end to this unnatural condition of things in Asiatic Turkey, and that Great Britain and the rest of the Great Powers of Europe would take the resolution of exercising their duties and responsibilities in favour of the Armenian people to the utmost extent as dictated by their own vital interests, and the interests of enlightened humanity.

Armenian songs were given by Mrs. Rashid and Miss Arslanian, an Armenian young lady still in her teens.

THE ARMENIAN QUESTION IN RUSSIA.

"The Times" (July 2).

There are signs that the Russian Government, in spite of its preoccupations in the Balkans, is devoting some attention to the Armenian question. Although no accounts of outrages on any large scale have been received, Consular reports describe the situation as dangerous and explosive, and state that the Armenians are suffering much at the hands of the Kurds. A section of the Press in St. Petersburg is busily engaged in urging the Government to lose no time in making Armenia a field for its "historic mission" of protecting the Eastern Christians. It is a significant fact that practically the whole of the Russian public thinks the Government has in large measure abandoned this mission, and is proportionately indignant. On all sides one hears criticisms of M. Sazonoff's foreign policy. Some years ago few would have imagined that a Russian Foreign Minister, carrying out a liberal and pacific policy which commended itself to the whole of Europe, would rely for practically his sole Press support on Professor Miliukoff's Cadet organ, the *Retch*. Yet such is the situation to-day. The President of the Duma lately delivered a severe denunciation of the foreign policy of the Government and gave an interesting revelation of what are here considered quite moderate views. Even the Octobrists think that the very least that M. Sazonoff should have already got for his country out of the Balkan crisis is the free passage of the Dardanelles, while the Left, like the Right, represents the Government as in the pocket of Austria, and accuses it of caring little for the interests of the Southern Slavs.

These views may probably be discounted to a certain extent. The revolutionary element cannot be expected to refrain from making profit out of the unpopular policy of the Government, and therefore, in spite of appearances, it might not really be correct to state that the revolutionary party in Russia is at present an anti-peace party, and would plunge the Government into a European war. Some doubtless there are who would willingly do so, not from mere Chauvinism or from righteous indignation on behalf of the Slavs, but from the deliberate calculation, which is part of the orthodox faith of one school of revolutionaries, that all strain upon the Government machine is desirable in itself, as bringing nearer the day when the machine will smash, and that troubled waters will provide the best fishing. But after making all reasonable allowance for party feeling or for revolutionary motive it remains true that most of thinking Russia and most of unthinking Russia appear alike dissatisfied with their country's role on the present European stage.

GOVERNMENT INDIFFERENCE.

In Government circles there is a serene and godlike indifference to the public feeling. In view of the statesmanship, the spirit of reason, the recognition of great European interests which have characterised

the attitude of the Russian Government throughout the Balkan crisis, this indifference to public opinion may be described as fortunate. But were the European wind blowing the other way, and were it the public conscience of Russia, and not the Government, which answered to our own ideas, we should all be quick to point out the danger of the Government's detached position. Probably in actual fact there is no immediate danger, though it would be folly to be dogmatic on such a point. The Government is strong, and may be able to afford to disregard the public for a long time to come. But it will be many months before all the threads of the Balkan tangle are unravelled, and before European statesmen will be able to fold their hands. There are many possibilities for surprise remaining, and there are even still some open sores. It is well, therefore, that the Russian view of Russian policy should be noted and understood abroad. Had swift victory not fallen to the Allies, and had the existence of the Balkan States been seriously imperilled, there are many signs that all the old fervour which swept Russia into war in 1877 would have worked a like result last year. The success of the Allies has saved us from many complications, and their continued agreement would save us from many more.

EUROPE AND REFORM.

On the Armenian question the Government shows no signs of interpreting its "historic mission" in any aggressive sense. Official circles appear to recognise the desirability of common European action, but it may be of interest to those in other countries who are at present asking where Armenia is going to figure in the new settlement to know that official opinion here takes it for granted that before Europe retires to its tents the Armenian question will have to be faced. It is not thought that there will be any advantage in the insertion in the final treaty of clauses promising reform. There are too many bad precedents, culminating in the Treaty of Berlin, to leave any hope that such clauses will be effective. Opinion leans to the view that the question can be most usefully dealt with by the Ambassadors in Constantinople, and that after the Balkan ground has been cleared they will be called upon to elaborate, in conjunction with the Porte, a considerable scheme of reform, of which the essential part will be the introduction of European officers into the Armenian vilayets. The value of such a scheme will, of course, entirely depend upon the amount of executive authority entrusted to these officers.—(St. Petersburg correspondent of "*The Times*.")

A wire from St. Petersburg announces that a special envoy from His Holiness The Catholicos of all the Armenians is conveying a special letter to His Majesty the Czar. It is also said that a commission is to be formed under the name of *Pro Armenia*, comprised of well-known personalities. This commission will endeavour to urge upon the Russian Government to exert direct influence for the furtherance of the cause of the Armenians, and for the introduction of reforms in Turkish Armenia by the initiation of Russia and without the interference of Germany.

THE ARMENIAN QUESTION IN EGYPT.

A monster meeting was held by the Armenian community at the Printania Theatre in Cairo on Sunday last. It was attended by over two thousand people. Amongst those on the platform were Mr. Tigrane Gamsaragan (the chairman), Mr. Aknouni (one of the chiefs of the Dashnakzoutian party of the Armenian movement, who has come to Egypt in order to give the local movement an impetus), and Sheikh Rahid Rida (who represented the Syrian community, many of whose members were present). Throughout the meeting was most orderly, and the speeches made were moderate in tone. The theme of discussion was, of course, the Armenian question. The grievances of the community were clearly set forth by the leaders, and various resolutions were passed. The chief of these were to the effect that the community considers that the guarantee of Europe is the *sine qua non* condition of the realisation of the reforms, which the Ottoman Government, in spite of its reiterated promises, has never carried out; that the movement is not one of disloyalty to the Sultan, but that it is actuated solely by a desire of the Armenians to protect themselves and to get rid of the continual neglect and disastrous policy of the Central Government; and that the Armenians extend their profound sympathy to all their compatriots in Turkey of every creed who are suffering from the tyrannous rule of the Turkish Government, and declare themselves ready to give their moral and material assistance in defending their lives, their honour, and their property. It was decided to send a copy of these resolutions to all the foreign Governments, to the foreign Ambassadors at Constantinople, to the Porte, and to the various Armenian authorities in Turkey and in Paris.—(*The Near East*, June 21.)

THE ARMENIAN QUESTION IN HOUSE OF COMMONS.

MAY 29.

Mr. T. P. O'CONNOR (Liverpool, Scotland, Nat.)

said that he understood that the Government was pledged to raise the question of Armenia in the Conference that was to settle the future of Turkey. The right hon. gentleman was aware of the extreme moderation of the demands of the Armenians. It was understood that the Armenians wished to remain Turkish subjects and to do their best to secure the integrity of the Turkish Empire. All that they demanded were reforms and guarantees of reforms which would secure life and property and the due administration of justice. He thought that Europe was determined that there should be no more massacres in Armenia, and he was glad to think that control was no longer objected to by high Turkish authorities. If the European Powers insisted that

the reforms should be subject to European control they would not have difficulty in obtaining assent. The Armenians contended strongly that the reforms asked for would benefit Turks as well as Armenians. He believed that the Foreign Secretary in raising this question would have the support of the statesmen of France. In regard to the suggested enlargement of Albania, in his opinion it would be monstrous and absurd to place Grecian territory under the rule of another race and that a race of inferior civilization. He believed that the greatest possible danger would be caused to the integrity of the Turkish Empire in Asia if the Aegean Islands were taken out of the control of Greece.

MR. PONSONBY (Stirling Burghs, Min.)

said the Armenian question, in which this country had taken a special interest, was as far from solution now as it had ever been. The point upon which attention should be concentrated was not so much the acceptance of reforms by the Turkish Government as the securing of guarantees that the reforms would be carried out. Men of all parties would congratulate the Foreign Secretary on the way in which he had conducted the negotiations during the past six months. He had won for himself a very prominent place among the statesmen of Europe. By his calm persistence and transparent honesty of method and purpose the right hon. gentleman had brought about a state of affairs in which this country stood foremost among the Powers of Europe in the councils of the world. He hoped the right hon. gentleman would not cease in his labours to establish and consolidate the peace of Europe. The Government should take the initiative in calling together a conference of the Powers to discuss the question of the limitation of armaments and also establish a Peace Department in connexion with the Foreign Office. That department could keep in touch with similar departments in other countries with a view of encouraging the elements that make for peace. He was encouraged in putting forward his suggestion because they had in the present Foreign Secretary a statesman who had gained a position from which he could guide and even lead the other Powers of Europe.

SIR E. GREY'S statement:

The other question with which I must deal is that of Armenia. Of that I can say very little, but it is not for lack of sympathy or that I do not think the matter important. The question of reform in Asiatic Turkey is a matter which concerns all the European Powers who have interests in Asiatic Turkey. They must deal with the matter in consultation with the Turkish Government, and I hope a comprehensive scheme of reform will result. It has been impossible to take the matter up with the Turkish Government while they have been engaged in the war which has been going on for so many months past. It has also

been impossible for the Great Powers, upon whom the war has brought one anxiety after another, especially upon those Powers who, either geographically or by national feeling, were most intimately affected by the changes that have taken place in the Near East, to elaborate a scheme of reform in Asiatic Turkey. Putting it shortly, both Turkey and the Great Powers have, for the last two months, been so wrought and exercised and occupied by the European question in the Near East that it has been impossible for them to elaborate anything for the Asiatic Provinces of Turkey. But we are all aware—the Turkish Government as much as any one—that disorder and massacres in the provinces of Asiatic Turkey would raise another question of anxiety to Turkey itself as well as to the Powers who have economic interests in Asiatic Turkey. The Powers who are specially interested in that part without exception wish to avoid that anxiety. They wish to avoid having any political question raised with regard to Asiatic Turkey that will cause anxiety. The Turkish Government themselves and the people of Turkey are just as anxious that there should not be disturbances in Asiatic Turkey which will give rise to interference or difficulties in the Asiatic provinces. I believe there is every disposition on the part of Turkey to avail herself of European assistance and on the part of the Powers to give that assistance to establish the authority of the Turkish Government in its Asiatic provinces.

JUSTICE AND SOUND FINANCE.

The real strength of Turkey, which we wish to see consolidated and maintained in Asiatic Turkey as soon as peace is concluded, will depend on the establishment of justice and sound finance. These are the two things we wish to see established in Asiatic Turkey, because they are essential to the consolidation of the position of the Turkish Government itself. I trust that all the Powers will co-operate in giving assistance to Turkey in this matter in such a way as not to impair Turkish authority, but to enable through Turkish authority these two great foundations of justice and sound finance to be established on a sure footing in her Asiatic provinces. That at any rate is our object. If I do not say more it is not because I do not think it important and desirable, but it is because it is a subject for discussion between the Powers themselves and the Powers and Turkey, and it would be impossible to make real progress with questions such as these until the conclusion of the war between Turkey and the Allies. Then I trust to make some progress with the other matters that remain to be dealt with.

July 3.

BRITISH ADMINISTRATORS FOR TURKEY.

Mr. KING (Somerset, N., Min.) asked the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs whether the Turkish Government had requested the services of administrators or *Gendarmerie* officers to carry out law and institute reforms in the Turkish Empire; and, in case of the request being granted, what conditions would be imposed.

Sir E. GREY (Northumberland, Berwick).—The answer to the first part of the hon. member's question is in the affirmative. As regards the second part, I am not at present in a position to say more than that the whole question is under consideration.

The Press on Armenia.

“*Truth*” (June 18).

There is fear of serious trouble in Armenia. Massacres on a large scale have not yet taken place, but assassination of Christians is proceeding piecemeal and quite unchecked. Europe's pull over Turkey is that this incorrigible power wants money. A condition for granting the loan should be the establishment over Armenia of a Christian Governor. But about five millions of the Armenians have maintained the faith of Christendom for a thousand years against the Turk, and it would be a pity if by any oversight of diplomacy they happened to be wiped out.”

“*The Nation*” (June 7).

Incomparably graver are the issues raised by the future of what remains of Turkey, and in particular by the destinies of the Armenian race. On one condition only can Turkey hope for a future, and that is the co-operation of Germany with Great Britain to develop her resources, and to keep her statesmen on the path of decent and humane administration. Paper schemes of reform would be worthless without co-operation; they would be almost superfluous if it were achieved. Happily, all the omens point to this consummation. Turkey, with her finances in confusion, comes as a suitor to Europe, and Europe can make her own terms. The one condition on which it would be sane politics and sound morals to assist her is that she shall give guarantees for the future of the Armenians, and for administrative reforms which ought to be general and not merely Armenian in their scope. Germany has realised that the commercial success of her railways depends more

on the preservation of the Armenian population which they will serve than on any other single factor, and she has already given proof of her desire to co-operate with our own diplomacy by encouraging the Turks to ask for British assistance in the work of administrative reconstruction. The foundations have already been laid of a common work which will save the Armenian race, and with it the Turkish Empire, while ending, we believe for ever, the feud which has divided Europe.

"The Contemporary Review" (June).

Perhaps the most pressing questions which will have to be met at once relate to Armenia. The Government is more anxious about the Armenian provinces than about any other; for, unfortunately, promises of reform have been as often made and neglected as were made about Macedonia. During the last two years there have been a score of small outrages by the Kurds, which have aroused a feeling of despair among the Armenians. The Porte, as well as the Armenian Patriarch and the influential men of the community, made strenuous efforts to prevent disturbances, and especially during the war, efforts which were, however, only partially successful. The Kurds are the principal offenders. Young Turkey long ago promised to take them in hand, but the successive troubles in Arabia, the Hauran, and Albania, occupied the army and the attention of the Government. At the request of the Patriarch, many urgent telegrams were sent to local governors, but were of little avail, and the question of Armenia must be dealt with by the Powers. During the last six weeks, and especially in the first fortnight of May, the tension between the Government and the Armenian community has been steadily growing worse. The Patriarch and his Council have threatened resignation. When it is remembered that the Armenians strongly supported Young Turkey, the change of attitude is seen to be significant.

The Government has prepared a project of reforms for Armenia which is approved by the leading members of the community as on the whole a good one. But the remark made by everybody in regard to it is the obvious one, that if the project is to remain one more paper reform, it will be as useless as its predecessors. There ought to be some guarantee that the reforms will be executed. Everything, indeed, turns on the question of guarantees. How are they to be secured?

The answer, in my opinion, is suggested in the Treaty of San Stefano. Article 16 anticipated that, on the departure of the Russian troops from the Armenian provinces then in their occupation, troubles would probably break out. In consequence, while Russia consented that the territory occupied should be given back to Turkey, she stipulated that the Porte should bind itself "to put into execution without further delay the ameliorations and reforms rendered necessary by local needs in the provinces inhabited by Armenians, and should

guarantee their security from the Kurds and Circassians." This article was modified and strengthened in the Berlin Treaty (Article 61), and a similar promise by Turkey was given to Great Britain in the Cyprus Convention of June 4th, 1878. When Lord Salisbury, shortly after the Armenian massacres, was urgently pressed by the Sultan for support against Russia, who had claimed that no railway concession should be granted in North-East Asia Minor to other than Russian subjects except with her consent, and when the English Foreign Secretary was reminded of the clause in the Cyprus Convention which stipulates that England should support Turkey against Russia, the reply given was that the promise of support was conditional upon the introduction of reforms for the Armenians, and that instead of bettering their condition Turkey had massacred them by thousands. The answer was given in Lord Salisbury's best manner, and was flung contemptuously at the Turkish representative. But as then, so now; nothing has been done for securing the lives and property of Armenians. The neglect to keep her promise was as serious to the population as a like neglect regarding Macedonia.

I would suggest that Russia should be given a mandate by Europe to superintend the execution of reforms in Armenia. The conditions of the mandate should be on the same lines as those given to Austria when authorised to take over the administration of Bosnia and Herzegovina. Lord Salisbury made the obvious excuse for not compelling Abdul Hamid to put an end to his brutalities in Armenia, that the British fleet could not sail over the Taurus. Russia is indeed the only country which can effectively protect the Armenians. The problem before the Powers is how to guarantee the lives and property of the Christian population with the least injury to Turkey, and it will shortly have to be faced. In reply to the objection that to give Russia a mandate for such purpose would ultimately mean the absorption of the provinces in the Czar's empire, the answer given me was, "better that than that we should be massacred." The slaughter of thousands in Cilicia in 1909, especially since the publication of Agop Babikian's terrible report, which only saw the light a few weeks ago, has largely alienated Armenian sentiment from the party now in power. The cause and the object aimed at in that massacre have now become fairly proved, and the concealment of Agop Effendi's report since his death, which occurred two days after his return to the capital, suggests suspicion. The Armenians believe that though the Committee of Union and Progress in Constantinople were opposed to the unprovoked slaughter, as I for one entirely believe, the Central Committee in Salonika ordered it.—*Sir Edwin Pears.*

"The Near East" (July 4).

The Armenians continue to demand the immediate—or, at least, the speedy—removal of the grievances from which their kinsfolk in Kurdistan still labour, but lack of funds and troops must delay the

application of remedial measures. It is unfortunate, too, that the Committee organ, *Tasvir i Evkhar* should have chosen this moment to declare that Boghos Nubar Pasha is in league with the traitor Sherif, and that the Armenian Committee in Europe is hand-in-glove with the enemies of Turkey and of the Committee. This outburst on the part of a newspaper which is supposed to reflect the opinions of the Committee Left, the only side of the organisation which really counts at decisive moments, has produced a bad impression, and has made the Armenians more than ever doubtful of the good faith of the Committee leaders. They point to the contrast between the promises of Prince Said Halim and the language of the Committee Press, the assurances of Hadji Adil or Talaat and the anti-Armenian activity of valis and subordinate provincial officials. It is, of course, quite certain that a good many reactionaries have been masquerading as C.U.P. stalwarts since the beginning of the Constitutional period; it is also certain that Turkish nationalism, in the narrow sense of the adjective, is not yet a spent force, and may cause trouble in the Asiatic provinces. But is it as certain as some Armenians pretend that the Committee leaders *can* at the present juncture impose their will on their followers in the outlying provinces?—(*Constantinople Correspondent of N.E.*)

“*The Christian Science Monitor*,” Boston (June 4).

A couple of years ago, “*The Christian Science Monitor*” was approached by certain friends of Armenia, with a request that it would give publicity, which had been refused elsewhere, to the sinister preparations for what threatened to be a new Armenian massacre. The publicity asked for was given, and no massacre took place. To-day, the friends of Armenia in western Europe are again asking for publicity with respect to what is happening in eastern Anatolia, and again publicity is being privately refused to them, on the ground that political complications might ensue. It is impossible to understand what is to be gained by suppressing or disguising the facts which the Armenian Society in London has been refused publicity for in certain quarters. There can be no doubt that the wider the publicity given to them, the less chance of a second Sassoon or Adana. A generation ago the press of Europe discreetly held its peace, and the Bulgarian atrocities took place; twenty years ago, there was the same reticence, and suddenly there came the news of Sassoon; and then again, at the very moment when the brotherhood of man was being proclaimed before the Yildiz Kiosk, the butcher of Adana was carrying out the behests of Constantinople.

In such circumstances there can be little hesitation in speaking plainly, and indeed the facts speak plainly enough. The shout of “*Vae victis!*” has been heard from Djakova to Salonika, and from Monastir to Rodosto. The Pomaks and the Dunmays of what is still

in name Turkey-in-Europe, have snatched such of their goods as they could carry and fled, with their wives and children loaded almost as heavily as their carts, in one terrified stream to Constantinople. The question of what is to be done with this vast incursion of beggary has been settled by shipping it to Anatolia.

In Anatolia for centuries the Turk has acted as he has chosen, and no questions have been asked. Now this horde of armed, starving, almost penniless Muhammadans, filled with hatred of the Christians who have driven them from their homes and seized their huts and fields, finds itself in the presence of another Christian population, in possession of homes and fields, and all of which it has itself been dispossessed. The Christians of Armenia, in the interests of good government, have been deprived even of their carving knives. It surely does not require an enormous amount of perspicacity to see what is going to happen in eastern Anatolia, if somebody does not speak, and speak promptly. In these circumstances, as in the circumstances of a few years ago, there can be no doubt that, if the facts stated by the Armenians in Europe are correct, the Christian governments of the European continent must take steps to prevent a new Adana.

Reform in Armenia.

“*The Daily News and Leader*” (July 3).

(By HAROLD SPENDER.)

During the last few weeks important negotiations have been going on between the Turkish and the British Governments in regard to the condition of Asia Minor, and it is understood that Turkey has shown an apparently genuine desire to put her house in order. The first proposal was that Great Britain should send some civil servants—Lord Milner's name was suggested—to help the Turks in the work of civil administration. But affairs have been going from bad to worse so rapidly that it has become clear that the more important matter is that of restoring law and order.

LOAN OF OFFICERS.

The present proposal, therefore, is that Great Britain should lend to Turkey a certain number of Anglo-Indian officers who will act as captains of gendarmerie, following an earlier precedent established some ten years ago in Macedonia. It is to be hoped that the British officers will be given more power than was possessed by the European officers at that period, and that the experiment in Asia Minor will be more successful than it was in Macedonia.

That unhappy land was once the flowering garden of Greek civilisation, and at a later time the cradle of Christianity. For many centuries it had been a mere cockpit of human misery. During the last few months I have periodically received from responsible authorities lists of murders and outrages against the Christian population of Armenia. Such events have become so much a matter of course in that part of the world that it has been vain to attempt to stir up any emotion of sympathy in any official or departmental quarter. An impression seems to have grown up that there must be something really wrong with the Armenian for him to be so unhappy, and that when God laid upon him so heavy a curse He must have meant it as a punishment for some primeval misdeed. At any rate pity itself has become weary in regard to hapless Armenia. "They must be wicked to be so miserable"—that seems to be the general verdict.

A GEOGRAPHICAL MISFORTUNE.

And why? Why is it that Armenia, whose good government was guaranteed by the Berlin Treaty, and even turned into a direct British responsibility by the cession of Cyprus, has known nothing since 1878 except one brutal series of oppressions and massacres unparalleled in the history of the human race—that even now her European friends are restrained from sympathy by the dread of an even greater catastrophe?

Partly because of the extraordinary misfortune of her geographical situation. If Armenia had lain on the Mediterranean coast of Asia Minor she would probably have been saved from massacre. But the Armenian vilayets lie far back in the interior, isolated by bad roads and surrounded by wild tribes of Kurds, who have hitherto revenged upon the Armenians the effects of a misgovernment which is only a little less than that of the Armenians themselves. The result of this geographical remoteness is that, whatever good government Europe may promise, it is almost impossible for Europe to guarantee it. The result is that European sympathy has, by arousing hopes, even increased the perils of the Armenian people. Their very best friends are reduced to impotence by the barriers of mountain and plain. At the present moment we have had to look on helplessly while the disbanded armies of the Turkish Government spread themselves through these hapless villages murdering, outraging, and carrying horror and massacre into the lives of one of the most peaceful and harmless people on the face of the earth.

WHAT WILL FOLLOW?

What is to be the outcome? It would be too much to hope that these excellent British officers of ours will be able to do much more than make reports to our Government. But one thing will follow. Now that the British officer has been admitted, other nations will also "volunteer" to go to the help of Turkey. Russia will certainly not remain silent or idle. Germany already has a stronghold in Asia Minor

through her railways, and it must be frankly said that the influence of those railways and of the European staffs which they have introduced is perhaps the most hopeful and humanising influence for the future of Asia Minor. What we are obviously heading up to is the permeation of this great derelict country by the influences of stronger and more civilised Governments.

The best thing of all certainly would be that Armenia should become independent. But not even her best friends hope for that. She is sunk too low into the pit of misery. It is probable that the Armenians themselves would prefer European protection to an empty and perilous shadow of independence. But if such protection is to be given, it must be given firmly and promptly, and by the general agreement of the Powers. There must be no repetition of the fatal half-heartedness of 1896.

"*The Morning Post*" (June 24.)

(FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.)

PARIS, June 23.

The Constantinople Correspondent of the *Temps* understands that the Russian Government's proposed scheme of reforms for Armenia will shortly be communicated to the Ambassadors. This scheme consists of the union of the five vilayets of Erzerum, Van, Bitlis, Diarbekir and Karpuz into a single province with an Ottoman Governor-General nominated by the Ottoman Government with the assent of the Powers for a period of five years, and a Provincial Assembly composed of an equal number of Mussulmans and Christians, elected also for five years. The gendarmerie would consist of an equal number of Christians and Mussulmans, officered by Europeans. The Hamidieh regiments would be disbanded. The functionaries would be composed of Christians and Mussulmans in equal numbers. The use of the Armenian language would be legal, the schools free, and legal procedure reformed. The Powers would assure themselves of the execution of these reforms, but the scheme does not specify ways and means.

CONSTANTINOPLE, July 1.

The Ambassadors held an informal meeting yesterday at the Austro-Hungarian Embassy, and exchanged views on the subject of reforms in the Ottoman Asiatic provinces. It was decided to institute a commission composed of members of the various Embassies for the purpose of examining the reforms which will be submitted to the Porte. The latter has prepared a scheme of reforms which will shortly be published.—*Reuter*.

"The Times" (July 4).

(FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.)

CONSTANTINOPLE, July 3.

An Imperial Iradeh is about to be issued sanctioning the decision of the Council of Ministers to appoint Inspectors-General for a period of five years in the various groups of the Asiatic Provinces, these Inspectors-General to be assisted by a corps of foreign advisers and native inspectors.

I understand that the scheme defining the powers of the Inspectors-General and delimitating inspectorates is being prepared by the Ministry of the Interior. The British Foreign Office, which was requested to appoint advisers, declined the responsibility, but agreed to the appointment by the Porte of a certain number of British officials to these posts. I further understand that Hazim Bey, ex-Vali of Beirut, Djelal Bey, Hussein Hilmi Pasha, and Hadji Adil Bey have been offered posts as Inspectors-General in Irak, Western Anatolia, Syria, and one of the two inspectorates-general into which Armenia will probably be divided. The appointment of adviser to the Inspector-General of the Arabian Provinces is said to have been offered to Mustafa Mahir Pasha, the well-known and extremely capable Egyptian official.

"The Daily Telegraph" (July 4).

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CONSTANTINOPLE, Wednesday (2 p.m.).

On April 19 last I pointed out that the Armenian question had reached such a degree, both of acuteness and maturity, that if the Ottoman Government did not proceed to acts constituting or paving the way for a solution satisfactory to the Armenians, such a solution would inevitably be given under the impulse of Russia, acting either alone or in concert with Europe. I reported, however, the opinion of diplomatic circles, where it was thought that the Ottoman Government conscious of the imminent danger, would act in such a manner as to avoid a foreign solution, which would inevitably bring about a restriction of its independence.

This opinion has not been realised, and the Armenian question has now entered upon the phase of an international solution. In diplomatic circles it is stated that for some weeks a solution of this nature was to be expected, as the precise assurances of reforms given by Mahmud Shefkhet Pasha received no sort of realisation. In Constantinople itself the unfortunate Mahmud Shefkhet and Prince Said Halim fought laboriously against the passive resistance of a section of the Young Turk party, which was obstinately hostile to modernisation of the State and reforms with foreign collaboration.

PRECIOUS TIME LOST.

Thus precious time was lost, and meanwhile disorders and murders continued in Armenia. The statement made by Sir Edward Grey, in the House of Commons on May 29, constituted the last advice to Turkey, which was given clearly to understand that Europe would end by taking in hand the question of reforms. Yesterday afternoon this event was realised. Representatives of the six Great Powers met together at the residence of the Marquis Pallavicini, and held the first sitting for the purpose of studying the Armenian question and preparing a scheme of reforms. Naturally, nothing was decided upon at this first sitting, but I learn from an excellent source that the Russian Ambassador handed to his colleagues the outline of a scheme setting forth the general lines upon which the study could be fruitfully carried on. Although diplomatic discretion will naturally be observed in regard to the deliberations, I have reason to understand that the solution of the Armenian question which is under discussion very closely resembles that proposed in the memorandum of the Ambassadors of Great Britain, France, and Russia of 1895.

A REFORM SCHEME.

The Sublime Porte was not ignorant of the fact that European diplomacy was discussing the Armenian question. It has just sent to the Ambassadors a note signed by Prince Said Halim, announcing that the work of the Sublime Porte on the general reforms in Asiatic Turkey is concluded, that a reform scheme will be published immediately, and that the Porte trusts that Europe, in accordance with her promise, will afford the necessary facilities for assuring the application of the scheme. This new assurance of general reforms seems to me to have been received with scepticism, and an interview which I have just had on the subject with very high diplomatic personages gives me cause to doubt whether this communication of the Porte will have the effect of arresting or even retarding the work begun by the Ambassadors.

However, Ottoman circles have not lost all hope that there is still time to prevent international discussion of the question. The Minister of the Interior, Talaat Bey, tells me that the reform scheme has been drafted under form of law, that the Sultan's irade sanctioning it has just been obtained, and that it will be promulgated immediately. It is anticipated that European diplomacy will abstain from interference in the application of what is regarded as ordinary Ottoman law relating to the internal affairs of the empire.

"The Daily Telegraph" (July 5).

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CONSTANTINOPLE, Friday (6.0 p.m.)

Each of the Ambassadors of the six Great Powers has appointed a delegate for the work of drawing up a scheme of reforms for Armenia.

The delegates include Mr. Fitzmaurice, First Dragoman of the British Embassy, and Dr. Mandelstam, First Dragoman of the Russian Embassy, both of whom are well known for their experience in and profound knowledge of Turkish administrative affairs.

The Government has just published in the *Journal Officiel* the law on the provincial reforms, the promulgation of which was announced in a previous message. The text, comprising seven articles, gives one the impression of being a brief résumé under the form of a law of the declarations which the late Grand Vizier, Mahmud Shefket Pasha, made to *The Daily Telegraph* on Jan. 28 and April 20 successively in regard to the division of the Empire into zones of inspection and the appointment of Inspectors-General.

Paragraphs in the Turkish Press with the appearance of official inspiration give the names of four probable Inspectors-General out of the six who are to be appointed. They are the former Grand Vizier, Hussein Hilmi Pasha, for the Syrian zone; the former Minister of the Interior, Hadji Adil Bey; the former Minister of Commerce, Djelal Bey; and the former Vali of Beyrout, Hazim Bey. The zones for which the last three are appointed are not mentioned.

“*The Daily Telegraph*” (July 7).

(FROM OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT.)

CONSTANTINOPLE, Sunday.

The Minister of the Interior, Talaat Bey, has made the following interesting announcements to me on the question of reforms. “I am happy to tell you,” he said, “that Great Britain has just given to Turkey a striking proof of her friendship in nominating three Inspectors-General, one for the Ministry of the Interior at Constantinople and one respectively for each of the two zones of the vilayets of Eastern Anatolia, the first comprising the vilayets of Van, Bitlis, Hoshpant, and Diarbekian, and the second Erzeroum, Sivas, and Trebizond. These are, as you know, the vilayets inhabited chiefly by Armenians, and I consider that this definite collaboration of high British functionaries of the first rank constitutes the principal step towards the carrying out of the reforms which are so urgently needed in these vilayets.

“Our Ambassadors and Consuls are conducting negotiations simultaneously in every country for the engagement of experts as advisers to the other Ministries in Constantinople. For example, in Switzerland negotiations are almost completed for the engagement of an adviser for the Ministry of Public Instruction.

At the Ministry of Finance foreign members of the Reform Commission, to which will be added a financial adviser and inspector-

general, both foreigners, will carry considerable weight in the preparation of the different budgets and the control of expenditure.”

On the other hand, the Minister of Justice, Piri Zadé Ibrahim Bey, informs me that the nomination of a foreign Inspector-General to the Ministry of Justice has been definitely made. This Inspector-General will exercise his authority over the huge body of inspectors working in the six great zones of civil inspection. At the same time the Government is proceeding to establish regular courts of justice in those parts of Eastern Anatolia which are at present without them.

Latest News from Armenia.

If we were to collect here all the consequences of misrule to which the Armenian provinces and Cilicia are at the present moment being subjected, the pages of our publication would be insufficient to contain them. Moreover, there are phases of persecution and oppression touching the honour of women, which we use our discretion by merely mentioning, as the details are often too harrowing to be included in the pages of an English periodical. From the countless number of recent acts of persecution which have appeared in the various newspapers of the Near East, we extract a few only for our purpose.

OFFICIAL TELEGRAMS SENT TO THE ARMENIAN PATRIARCHATE OF CONSTANTINOPLE.

May 21. KAVASH (AGTHAMAR).

Murders and plunderings have begun and are multiplying. The tribe of Grav have killed two Armenian shepherds of the villages of Khoomar and Gogit, in the province of Shadakh, and carried off 2,000 sheep. The brigand chief Mir-Mké, with 60 men, has entered Khizan and is collecting money under threats. Mir-Mké and Ali Agha of Khorook have killed a Turkish tax collector and two policemen.

May 25. BAGHESH.

Last night the Kurds carried off five Armenians from the village of Corvin. A Syrian priest of Eeroon was killed. The Governor is a silent spectator. It is impossible for the people to endure any longer. Explain our plight to the Central Government unreservedly and in the strongest possible manner.

June 8. SHATAKH.

A reign of terror is prevailing in the district of Shatakh, owing to the presence of a strongly organised body of brigands under the leadership of the notorious Mir-Mké, who recently put the Government troops to flight, the latter leaving several killed behind. The new Gov.-

General who was reconnoitring the district with regular troops, sought safety in the town. The marauding band consists of about 100—120 brigands who have their trumpeters and also scouting parties furnished with field glasses. Some of them are wearing military and police uniform. A strong detachment of mounted troops with field and machine guns, have been told off to Shatakh. There are hardly any troops left in the town. The Christian population is in great danger and at the mercy of the excited Turkish mob.

June 10. BAGHESH.

On Adeljevaz (Arjesh-Van) Road have been found the mutilated bodies of a whole family. Their boxes and trunks ripped open, lying about them, are indicative that the family had been attacked, pillaged, and robbed of their property, during their journey.

June 19. OURANTS.

The village Ourants (near Karjkan) was overrun and attacked by Kurds. Terror reigns everywhere. Help!

June 20. AMASIA.

An ex-soldier policeman of the name of Sait Islam, with a drawn sword, in the market place, was threatening to kill an Armenian named Sargis; thus stirring the population and causing unrest.

June 22. BAGHESH.

An Armenian called Gareghin was murdered by the Turkish mob, the Local Authorities are indifferent.

“AZATAMART,” OF CONSTANTINOPLE.

June 17. MALLU-KHAN (ENGURI).

A savage murder of a young Armenian was perpetrated at Mallu-Khan (Enguri), the victim being a 19 year old farm hand named Eghia Suluyian, who, when taking his sheep to their grazing ground in the early morning, was suddenly attacked by a Turkish soldier called Ismail, who brained him, with a stone, and threw his lifeless body in the river Alastag. Only owing to strong protestations of his master, Mr. K. Manoukian, the authorities have investigated the matter, arrested Ismail, and recovered the body from the water. When charged Ismail answered, “It is not a crime to kill a giavor (a Christian).” The Armenian population is very excited.

June 21.

At TOKAT, about 500 sheep belonging to the Armenian and Greek monasteries were driven away by the brigands. No trace of them has been found.

“The Westminster Gazette” (June 30).

ARMENIAN COMMITTEE'S APPEAL.

We have received the following from the Armenian Committee at Geneva :—

“Telegrams via Kars inform us that thousands of Kurds have overrun various parts of Van, where pillaging and killing in the Armenian villages of Gurantz, Kurdchkan, are being resisted by the besieged villagers. A catastrophe is inevitable if England remains indifferent to the interminable sufferings of the Armenian nation, protected by the Convention of Cyprus.”

Letters.

“The Daily News and Leader” (June 30).

HELP FOR THE ARMENIANS.

(To the Editor.)

SIR,—Can it be that England knows of the reign of terror under which the Armenians in Asiatic Turkey are living? Surely it must be ignorance, it cannot be indifference to the fate of so many thousands of fellow Christians, which prevents the European Powers from acting in concert to secure protection for Christian subjects in Turkey. Now is the time for action, now that the Ambassadors are here to settle the Balkan question.

The Armenians are powerless to defend themselves or the honour of their wives and daughters, as the Turks will not allow them to have arms of any kind. Even their carving knives have lately been confiscated. Help must come from the outside.

The Armenian paper “Houssapere,” published in Cairo, dated May 22, reports a case of outrage by a Turkish gendarme in an Armenian church.

[Miss E. J. Robinson cites other cases of outrage, which we omit through lack of space.—ED. of A.]

For many years plunderings, abductions, murders, and every crime against person and property have gone on unpunished and unheeded in Armenia, the Turks being allowed a free hand in persecuting the Christians in every possible way. Now that the Turks are pouring from Macedonia into Asia, it is feared that they will wreak their vengeance on the only Christians left in their power—i.e., the Armenians. The latter, in terror of another massacre, are leaving their homes in numbers daily and emigrating to Russia or the United States.

Shall the needed protection not be accorded to these poor people, who only ask for safety and for justice?

Information of fresh outrages has reached London, and the facts are now being translated.

EMILY J. ROBINSON.

Announcements.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEATH OF **RAFFI**. THE ARMENIAN NATIONAL WRITER.

COMMEMORATION at the Queen's Gate Hall, Harrington Road, South Kensington, on Thursday, July 10th, 1913, at 8 o'clock. "The Reconstruction of Armenia," an allegorical play by Raffi, will be given, also short speeches in Armenian and English, Armenian songs, etc.

It may interest our readers to know that in response to the telegram of congratulations sent to His Imperial Majesty the Czar of Russia on His Majesty's Birthday, the Russian Ambassador in London has sent the following communication:—

AMBASSADE
IMPERIALE
DE RUSSIE.

To

Lieutenant-Colonel G. M. GREGORY, V.D.,
President of The Armenian United Association of London.

SIR,

I am directed to convey to you an expression of His Imperial Majesty's thanks for a telegram which you have addressed to the Emperor on the occasion of His Majesty's Birthday.

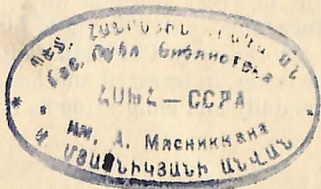
In hereby discharging the agreeable duty,

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

CHESHAM HOUSE,
21st June, 1913.

BENCKENDORFF



The Armenian United Association of London.

FOUNDED 1898. RECONSTRUCTED 1913.

General Council:

G. M. GREGORY, Lieut.-Col., V.D., *President.*

J. G. JOAKIM, *Vice-President.*

A. P. HACOBIAN, { *Vice-President and*
Hon. Treasurer.

M. K. GUDENIAN, M.D., *Hon. Sec.*

S. P. STEPHENS.

D. ARSLANIAN.

H. N. MOSDITCHIAN.

N. P. HACOBIAN, *Hon. Asst. Treas.*

JAMES A. MALCOLM.

This Association has been founded with the double object of (1) drawing together all Armenians in the British capital, bringing them into touch with the British public, and thus establishing a closer sympathy between the two nations; and (2) focussing in the centre of the civilised world the many questions, both social and national, which affect Armenia and the Armenians.

With the above objects in view, the Association is directing its energies to—

- (1) The establishment of a permanent habitation in London, which will embrace a hall for meetings, a reading-room and a library.
- (2) The organisation of social and literary gatherings.
- (3) The relief and education of Armenian orphans rendered destitute through chronic misrule in Armenia.
- (4) Watching the trend of political affairs affecting Armenia, and doing the utmost by pacific means towards the amelioration of the country and the people through (a) a Standing Committee, and by (b) the publication of literature.
- (5) The gradual raising of a fund for the establishment of an Armenian Church in London.

Membership is open to Armenians of both sexes.

Subscription:—Annual, 10/-; entrance fee, 5/-. Life Members, 5 guineas.

Sympathisers and friends of other nationalities are eligible for election as Hon. Members, but they have no voice in the management, and pay no subscriptions.

It will be evident that the above nominal subscription is just sufficient for the bare social functions of the Association. The more important functions are dependent for their success on the liberality of sympathisers, and donations are earnestly requested for the above national objects from those who are in a position to contribute. The response since the reorganisation of the Association has been very encouraging, but much more is needed to place the Association on a secure basis for prosecuting the work outlined above.

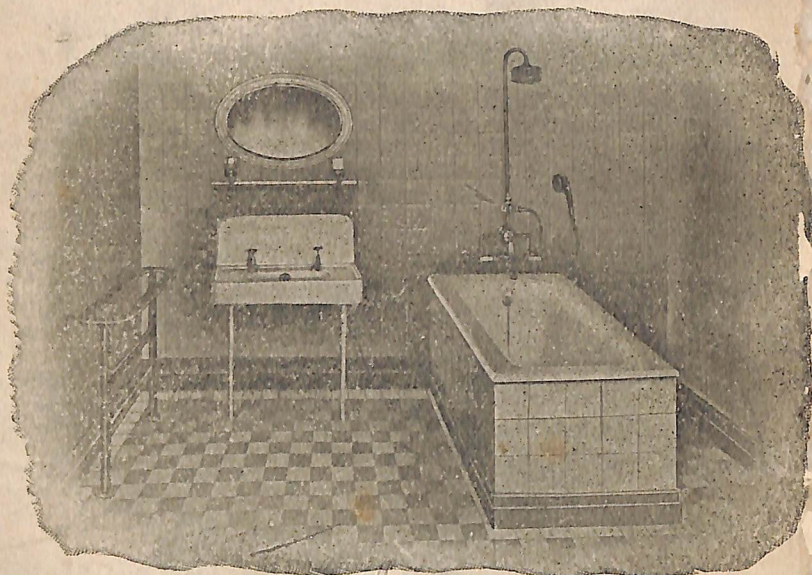
Communications affecting Membership, or any of the objects of the Association, should be addressed to

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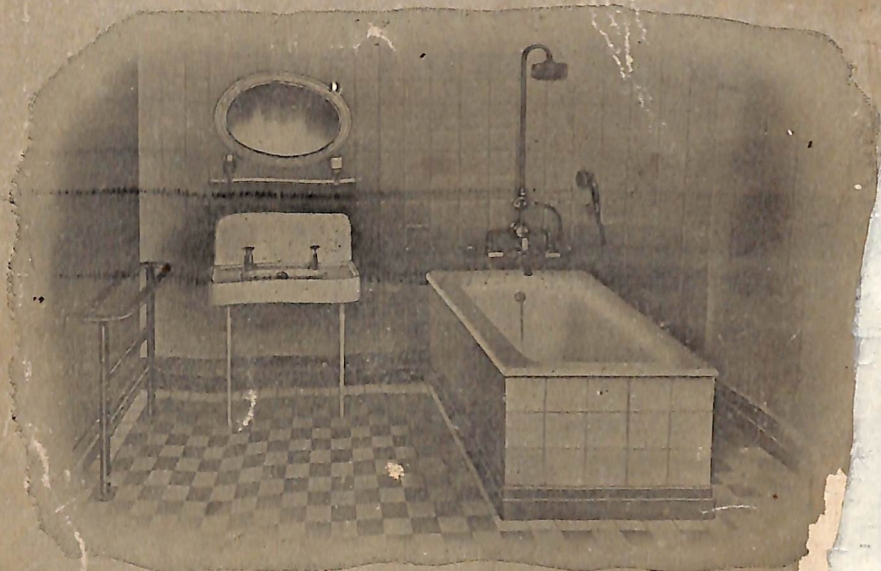


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